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DESTRO
image
#05

ENERGON UNIVERSE

CONFIDENTIAL

M ALIAS DESTRO

ADDITIONAL FIELD OPERATIVES

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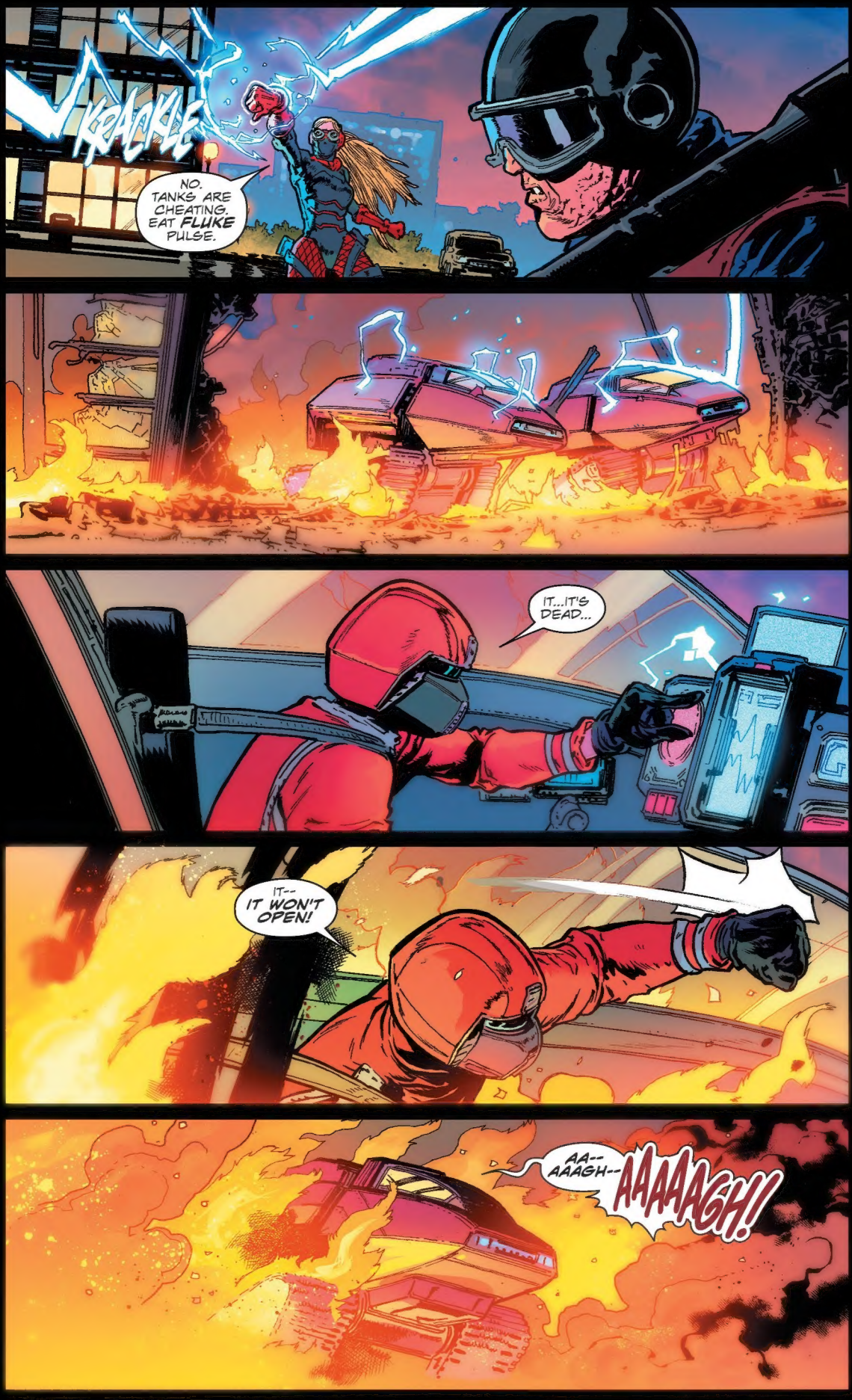
M.A.R.S. INDUSTRIES HQ.
NOW THAT WE'VE TAKEN OVER AS C.E.O.S, OUR CRIMSON GUARD ARE ALREADY BECOMING HIGHLY PROFICIENT WITH M.A.R.S. INDUSTRIES' NEWEST INNOVATIONS, COBRA COMMANDER.
"EXCEPT FOR DESTRO'S B.A.T.S, OF COURSE. THOSE MECHANIZED SOLDIERS ARE AN UTTER FAILURE. WE'VE MOVED THEM TO THE BASEMENT UNTIL WE CAN FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO WITH THEM--
"--BUT THEY MAY WELL END UP AS SO MUCH SCRAP METAL."
IF YOU ARE WILLING TO CONTINUE TO SUPPLY M.A.R.S. WITH THE ENERGON POWER SOURCE, WE KNOW WE CAN THINK OF FAR MORE FISCALLY EFFICIENT WAYS TO IMPLEMENT IT THAN AS MOTORS FOR ROBOT MEN.
IT'S SUCH A SHAME WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO DESTRO. BUT FROM A BUSINESS STANDPOINT, FOR ALL OF US...
WE THINK IT WAS PROBABLY A BLESSING IN DISGUISE.

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT, GENTLEMEN...
BUT DADDY'S HOME.

WHURHG?!
BOOM!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK! ROLL OUT THE H.I.S.S. TANKS!
OH, HOW I LOVE TO MAKE THINGS GO BOOM!


KRACKLE
NO. TANKS ARE CHEATING. EAT FLUKE PULSE.
IT...IT'S DEAD...
IT-- IT WON'T OPEN!
AA-- AAAGH--
AAAAAGH!

ARE YOU ALLIED WITH THESE CRETINS NOW, COBRA COMMANDER?
I AM KEEPING MY OPTIONSSS OPEN, DESTRO.
XAMOT AND TOMAX OFFER WHAT COBRA REQUIRES.
WE HAVE LOYALISTS. WE NEED FINANCING FOR FOOT SOLDIERS.
THE B.A.T.S WILL NOT SUFFICE. THEY CAN'T BE INSTRUCTED OR FOLLOW GUIDANCE.
AND IF YOU REMEMBER, WE DID PROMISE TO KILL YOU.
WE'D LIKE TO DO IT WITH OUR BARE HANDS.

YOU
SHOULD
HAVE
STAYED
DEAD,
DESTRO!
KLANK
OH! ARE THE RUMORS REALLY TRUE?
MMM...
DO YOU EACH TRULY FEEL WHAT THE OTHER FEELS?
HOW GROTESQUE.
HOW WAS THIS MEANT TO GO, DESTRO? YOU, STANDING ALONE AGAINST OUR ARMY?
I'M NOT ALONE...

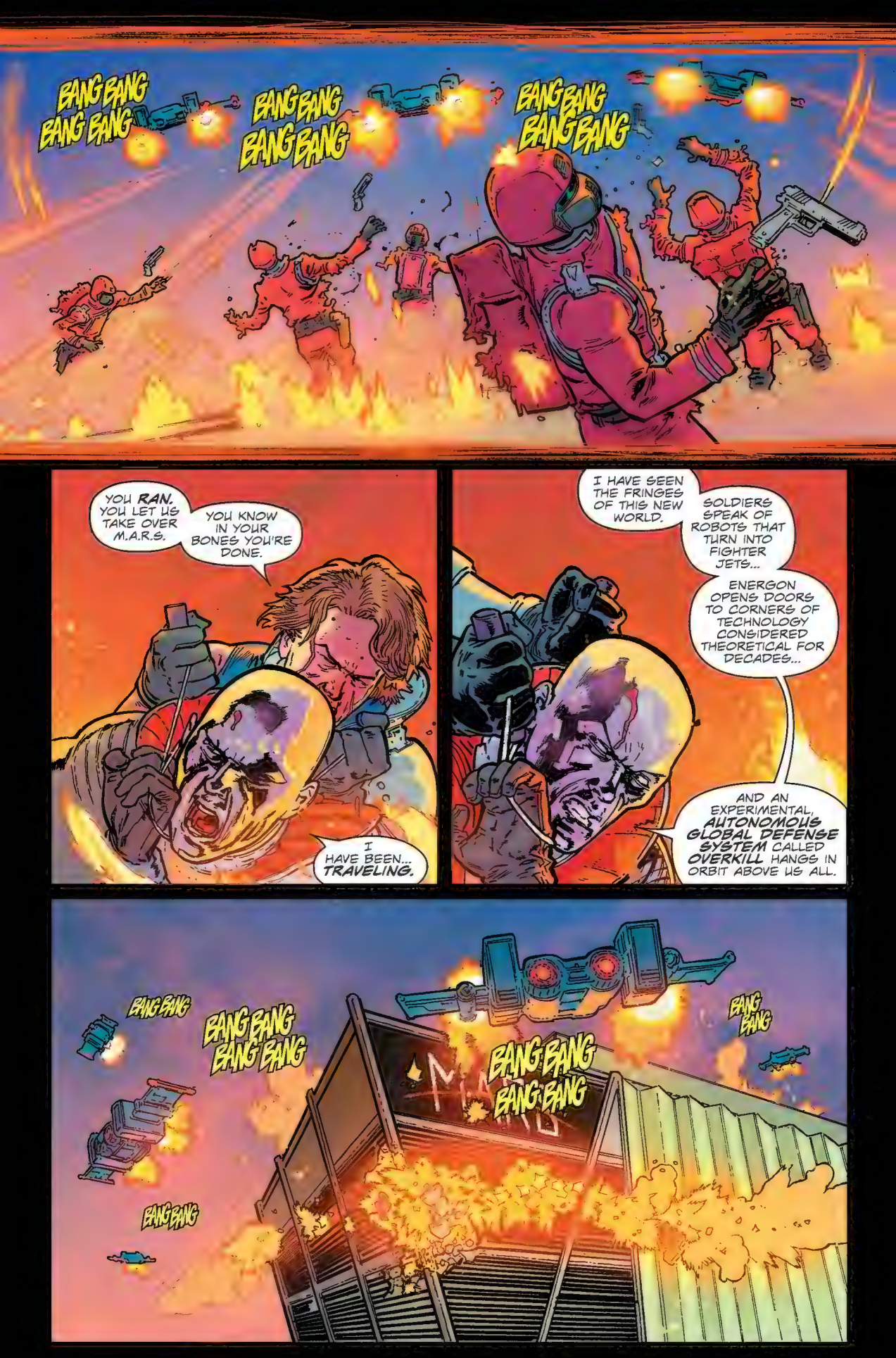
"...I HAVE THREE SOLDIERS."
THE TANKS ARE DISABLED! GET YOUR WEAPONS!
YOU MEAN THESE WEAPONS?
JUST LOOK AT ALL THIS AMMUNITION.
I THINK IT WOULD LOOK BETTER INSIDE YOUR SKULLS.

SLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAMBLAM
YOU CAN DO A LOT WITH THREE SOLDIERS IF YOU USE THEM RIGHT.
AGH!
NUMBERS MAY BE AN ADVANTAGE...
FWUMP
AGH!
BUT THEY CAN MAKE ONE COMPLACENT.
COMPLACENT?
GOD, YOU'RE SO ARROGANT.
NN!

FEEL FREE ANY TIME YOU WANT TO JOIN IN, CHAMELEON.
POW
YOU'RE TOO KIND, MERCER.
THE BASEMENT!
THERE'S A GARAGE EXIT, WE CAN REGROUP!

THE DESTRO CLAN HAS REACHED ITS AGE OF OBSOLESCENCE.
ON A LONG ENOUGH TIMELINE, IT WAS INEVITABLE, I'M AFRAID.
WE'RE ENTERING A NEW EPOCH.
PERHAPS YOU ALREADY SENSE THAT. PERHAPS IT IS WHY YOU BECAME SO PREOCCUPIED WITH THOSE USELESS ROBOTS.
A NEW--
->NN<--
EPOCH... YES.
BP
"BUT CLAN DESTRO ALWAYS LEADS THE WAY."
VRRT

OOF. RATHER A FLESH BLENDER DOWN THERE.
OVERKILL? SOME HAVE MADE IT OUTSIDE. THEY'RE ALL YOURS.

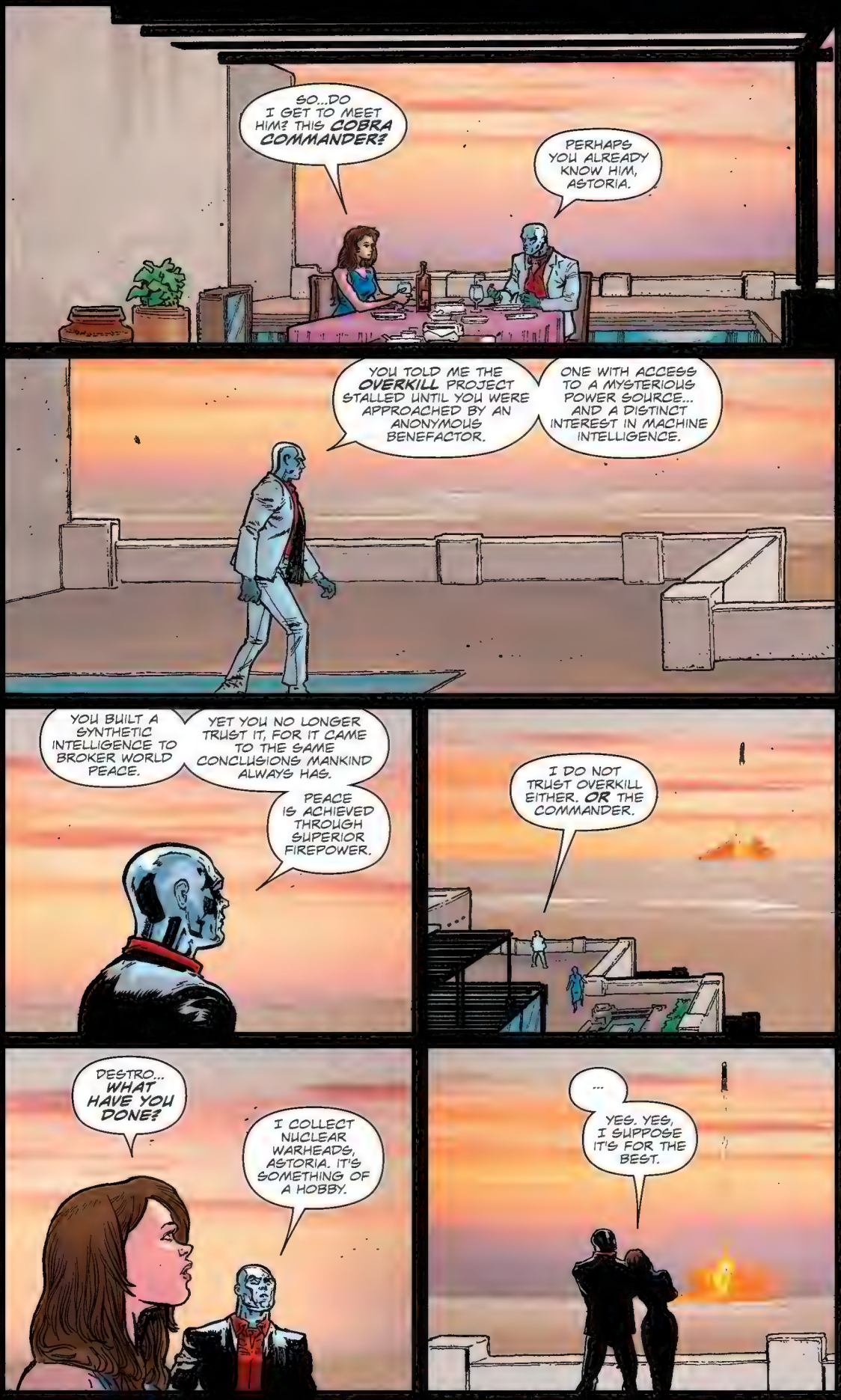

BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG
YOU RAN. YOU LET US TAKE OVER M.A.R.S.
YOU KNOW IN YOUR BONES YOU'RE DONE.
I HAVE BEEN... TRAVELING.
I HAVE SEEN THE FRINGES OF THIS NEW WORLD.
SOLDIERS SPEAK OF ROBOTS THAT TURN INTO FIGHTER JETS...
ENERGON OPENS DOORS TO CORNERS OF TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERED THEORETICAL FOR DECADES...
AND AN EXPERIMENTAL, AUTONOMOUS GLOBAL DEFENSE SYSTEM CALLED OVERKILL HANGS IN ORBIT ABOVE US ALL.
BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG
BANG BANG

THE OVERKILL DEFENSE SYSTEM IS PROGRAMMED TO DESTROY THOSE IT PERCEIVES TO BE THREATS TO ITSELF AND THE PLANET.
IT HAS THE ABILITY TO LEARN. TO ASSESS DATA AND STRATEGIZE ON GLOBAL DEFENSE.
AND IT'S SEEN YOU NOW, XAMOT AND TOMAX.
KRAK!

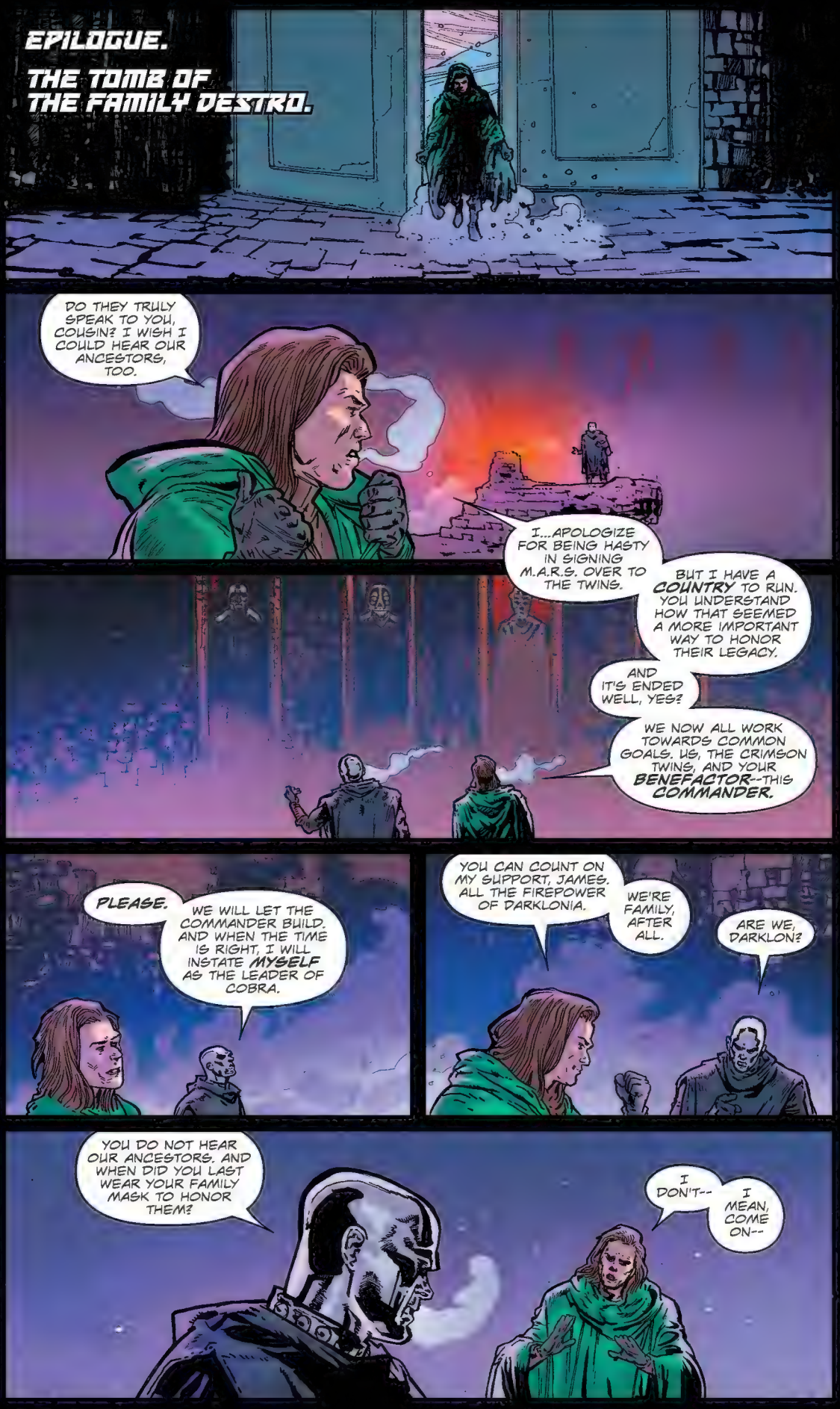
I DON'T THINK IT LIKES YOU.
I DON'T LIKE YOU.
YOU TRIED TO TAKE M.A.R.S. FROM ME.
ME!
I AM LAIRD DESTRO, AND YOU ARE IN MY HOUSE.
AND HERE, IN MY HOUSE...
I FORGIVE YOU.

CHAMELEON?
CALL OVERKILL OFF.
OOF!
WUH-- WHAT THE HELL IS YOUR GAME, DESTRO?
ALL LIFE IS WAR. ALL ENTITIES BURN WITH THE DESIRE FOR POWER.
I CANNOT BEGRUDGE IT.
I DO NOT BLAME YOU FOR SEEKING WHAT I HAVE.
LOOK ON THIS AS A WAKE-UP CALL, GENTLEMEN.
THERE ARE THINGS EMERGING INTO THIS WORLD NONE OF US HAVE PREDICTED OR ANTICIPATED.
PERHAPS THEY ARE NOT EVEN FROM THIS WORLD.

THEY WOULD MAKE DINOSAURS OF US ALL...
PERHAPS RENDER OUR ENTIRE ART OBSOLETE.
THE COMMANDER IS RIGHT.
AN ALLIANCE IS NEEDED.
WE MUST UNITE UNDER THE BANNER OF COBRA TO KEEP THE WORLD IN A STATE OF PERPETUAL WAR.
AS IT IS MEANT TO BE.
YOU HAVE IMPRESSSSED ME TODAY, DESTRO.
THANK YOU, COMMANDER.
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU ALL. BUT FOR NOW...
GET THE HELL OUT OF MY BUILDING.


SO...DO I GET TO MEET HIM? THIS COBRA COMMANDER?
PERHAPS YOU ALREADY KNOW HIM, ASTORIA.
YOU TOLD ME THE OVERKILL PROJECT STALLED UNTIL YOU WERE APPROACHED BY AN ANONYMOUS BENEFACTOR.
ONE WITH ACCESS TO A MYSTERIOUS POWER SOURCE... AND A DISTINCT INTEREST IN MACHINE INTELLIGENCE.
YOU BUILT A SYNTHETIC INTELLIGENCE TO BROKER WORLD PEACE.
YET YOU NO LONGER TRUST IT, FOR IT CAME TO THE SAME CONCLUSIONS MANKIND ALWAYS HAS.
PEACE IS ACHIEVED THROUGH SUPERIOR FIREPOWER.
I DO NOT TRUST OVERKILL EITHER. OR THE COMMANDER.
DESTRO... WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
I COLLECT NUCLEAR WARHEADS, ASTORIA. IT'S SOMETHING OF A HOBBY.
...
YES. YES, I SUPPOSE IT'S FOR THE BEST.

THANK YOU.


EPILOGUE.
THE TOMB OF THE FAMILY DESTRO.
DO THEY TRULY SPEAK TO YOU, COUSIN? I WISH I COULD HEAR OUR ANCESTORS, TOO.
I...APOLOGIZE FOR BEING HASTY IN SIGNING M.A.R.S. OVER TO THE TWINS.
BUT I HAVE A COUNTRY TO RUN. YOU UNDERSTAND HOW THAT SEEMED A MORE IMPORTANT WAY TO HONOR THEIR LEGACY.
AND IT'S ENDED WELL, YES?
WE NOW ALL WORK TOWARDS COMMON GOALS. US, THE CRIMSON TWINS, AND YOUR BENEFACTOR--THIS COMMANDER.
PLEASE.
WE WILL LET THE COMMANDER BUILD. AND WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, I WILL INSTATE MYSELF AS THE LEADER OF COBRA.
YOU CAN COUNT ON MY SUPPORT, JAMES. ALL THE FIREPOWER OF DARKLONIA.
WE'RE FAMILY, AFTER ALL.
ARE WE, DARKLON?
YOU DO NOT HEAR OUR ANCESTORS. AND WHEN DID YOU LAST WEAR YOUR FAMILY MASK TO HONOR THEM?
I DON'T--
I MEAN, COME ON--

YOU TRIED TO SELL OUR COMPANY, DARKLON. AFTER I GAVE YOU A COUNTRY.
YOU WILL ATONE.
MERCER? SCRAP-IRON?! WH--WHAT IS THIS?!
YOU WILL WEAR YOUR MASK IN CONTRITION. AS THE FIRST DESTRO DID.
COUSIN. PLEASE.
NO...
AAAARGHHH-

THE FUTURE IS ARRIVING.
THE FUTURE IS WAR.

WE'VE BEEN MONITORING DESTRO'S ACTIVITIES, AS ORDERED.
HE ACTED AS YOU PREDICTED. HE DID INDEED LAUNCH NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS TO IMPRESS A WOMAN.
BUT...
BUT WHAT?
WE'VE PICKED UP SOMETHING ELSE. IT APPEARS TO BE MECHANICAL--ENTERING ORBIT ABOVE THE PACIFIC.
BUT OUR SCANS CAN'T UNDERSTAND THE ALLOY. IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER... IT ALMOST SEEMS ORGANIC.
OH, CYBERTRON. HAVE YOU SENT ME MORE GIFTSSS?
THE END.

DIRECT ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO

[redacted]

GIJOE@SKYBOUND.COM

Annnnd…that's a wrap for DESTRO! These last five months have been insanely fun and from Dan, Andrei, Andrea, Adriano, Rus and everyone here at Skybound, THANK YOU for your support! There are a lot of options to spend your hard-earned money on every month and the continual support and enthusiastic response for the Energon Universe has been incredibly humbling and motivating. We all love what we're doing and I hope it shows in the quality of work.

Let's wrap this book with a pair of letters:

Thank you. Thank you for the Energon Universe, and especially thank you for Destro. For about 40 years now, Destro is the villain I most want to see punch someone in the face. Tomax and Xamot are villains I want to see get punched in the face. Both make great villains in different ways. Pitting them against each other... thank you.

The Energon Universe is the reason why I went and got my first ever box at my friendly local comic shop. I'm looking forward to more G.I. Joe and the rest of the Energon Universe coming my way every month!

Sechin Tower
Everett, Washington

What an awesome letter and THANK YOU for your support and getting that box…we won't let you down. But more importantly--how would you rate Destro's face punching in this issue? It's like Dan could sense exactly what you wanted for the finale haha!

I've a confession to make. I went in on Destro just to have a complete set of the kick-off E.U. Joe/Cobra universe. I asked my local comic shop (Wild West Comics) to carry it and Scarlett, which it was already a no brainer for me to collect. Now that I have Destro in hand I cannot wait for the next issue to drop. The writing has got me hooked and the artwork is such a pleasure to follow from panel, to panel to, boom! Splash page!!! Just a pleasure to read and enjoy.

Massive hats off to everyone involved in reuniting these franchises. And I can't wait to see how the story progresses.

-Nando

Thank you so much for reading, Nando, and I'm glad we delivered a book you became so passionate about… the team really brought their A-game and delivered a pretty definitive statement on Destro and his world.

And how does the story progress from here? That's a great question and in the next few pages you'll get a glimpse of things to come… as we have a killer preview to our new ongoing G.I. JOE series, with #1 dropping November 13th…be sure to ask Wild West Comics to pull one aside for you as it's gonna sell out FAST!

Please keep the letters coming as we love to hear from you…we have SO much cool stuff coming in the Energon Universe, you won't want to miss out.

--Ben

THE BIGGEST COMIC BOOK
OF THE DECADE IS HERE

G.I. JOE

The chart-topping Energon Universe team of **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON** and **TOM REILLY** will change everything you think you know about G.I. Joe!

WELCOME TO THE ENERGON UNIVERSE

ISSUE #1 AVAILABLE NOVEMBER 2024

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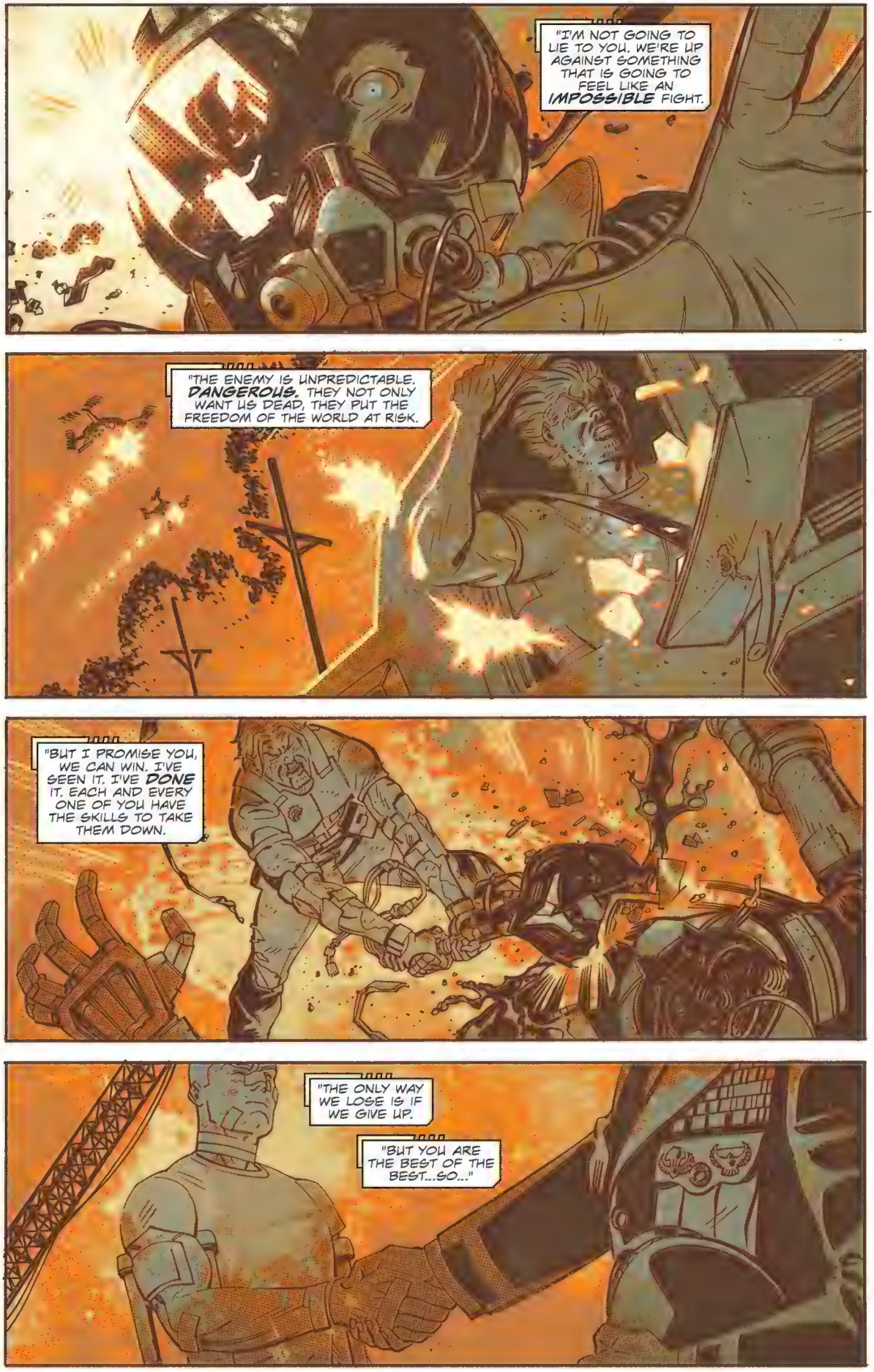
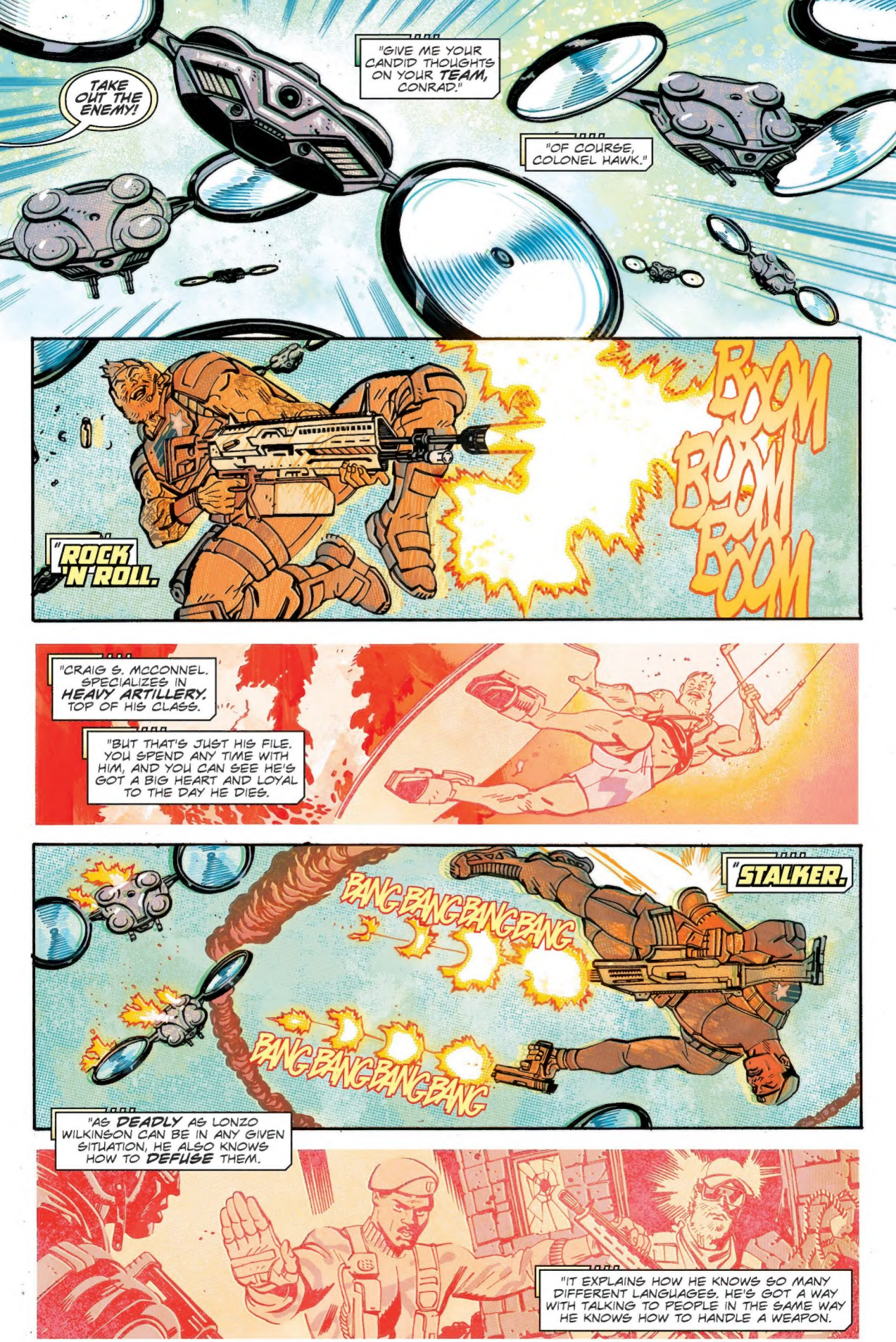
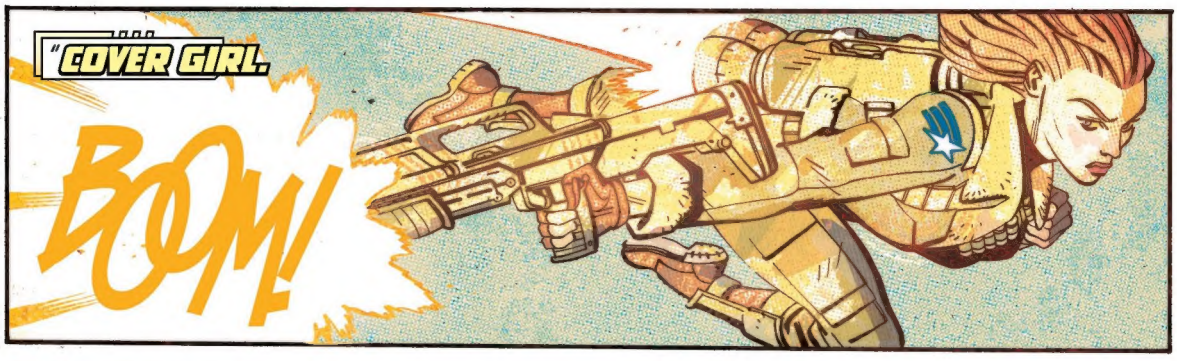

"I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU. WE'RE UP AGAINST SOMETHING THAT IS GOING TO FEEL LIKE AN IMPOSSIBLE FIGHT.
"THE ENEMY IS UNPREDICTABLE. DANGEROUS. THEY NOT ONLY WANT US DEAD, THEY PUT THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD AT RISK.
"BUT I PROMISE YOU, WE CAN WIN. I'VE SEEN IT. I'VE DONE IT. EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU HAVE THE SKILLS TO TAKE THEM DOWN.
"THE ONLY WAY WE LOSE IS IF WE GIVE UP.
"BUT YOU ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST...SO..."

LISTEN UP, SOLDIERS!

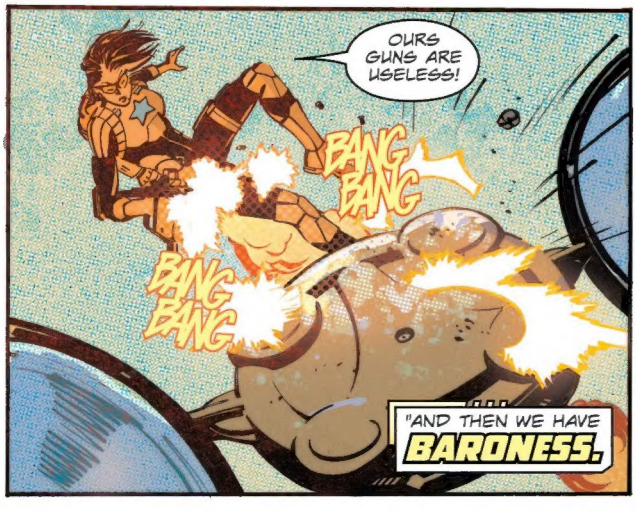
HERE IS YOUR OBJECTIVE...


TAKE OUT THE ENEMY!
"GIVE ME YOUR CANDID THOUGHTS ON YOUR TEAM, CONRAD."
"OF COURSE, COLONEL HAWK."
"ROCK 'N' ROLL.
BOOM BOOM BOOM BOOM
"CRAIG S. MCCONNEL. SPECIALIZES IN HEAVY ARTILLERY. TOP OF HIS CLASS.
"BUT THAT'S JUST HIS FILE. YOU SPEND ANY TIME WITH HIM, AND YOU CAN SEE HE'S GOT A BIG HEART AND LOYAL TO THE DAY HE DIES.
"STALKER.
BANG BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG BANG
"AS DEADLY AS LONZO WILKINSON CAN BE IN ANY GIVEN SITUATION, HE ALSO KNOWS HOW TO DEFUSE THEM.
"IT EXPLAINS HOW HE KNOWS SO MANY DIFFERENT LANGUAGES. HE'S GOT A WAY WITH TALKING TO PEOPLE IN THE SAME WAY HE KNOWS HOW TO HANDLE A WEAPON.



"I KNOW COURTNEY KRIEGER USED TO BE A MODEL, BUT HOLY HELL IS SHE SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT.
"SHE BUILDS TANKS THAT CAN TAKE A BEATING. AND SHE AIN'T AFRAID TO TEST THEM HERSELF.

"LANCE STEINBERG IS THE BEST DRIVER I KNOW. IN THE STREETS OR IN THE FIELD. HE HAS HIS FLAWS, MAYBE A LITTLE OLD SCHOOL, I KNOW THAT.
"BUT IF I NEEDED A RIDE INTO BATTLE, HE'S MY FIRST PICK.



TO BE CONTINUED IN G.I. JOE ISSUE #1

NOVEMBER 13, 2024

COLLECT ALL THESE EXCITING ENERGON UNIVERSE COVERS

COVER A

ANDREI BRESSAN & ADRIANO LUCAS

COVER B

SANFORD GREENE

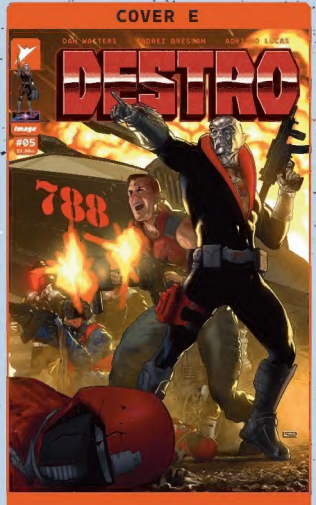
COVER C

NIKOLA ČIŽMEŠIJA

COVER D

MARCO FERRARI

COVER E



TAURIN CLARKE

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